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Letter dated 11 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the decision of the Milli medjlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated on 9 May 2000 (see annex) in connection with the activities contradicting the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan of certain parties in opposition on 29 April 2000 in Baku city and their attempts to provoke disturbances in the country.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eldar G. **Kouliev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decision of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the activities contrary to the Constitution of certain opposition parties in the city of Baku on 29 April 2000 and their attempts to provoke disturbances in the country

In recent years, a great deal of work has been done with a view to the preparation and consistent implementation, under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the world renowned politician and statesman Heydar Aliyev, of the comprehensive and substantive concept of the internal and foreign policy of our independent State, based on a scientific analysis and building on the realities of the contemporary world and the historical situation. Social and political stability has been established in the country, the economic crisis has been ended and progress has been achieved. In resolving the complex problems facing the State of Azerbaijan, considerable success has been achieved in improving society and establishing national solidarity in the country.

The Republic of Azerbaijan considers that its most important tasks are to implement the process of democratization, to build a State based on the rule of law and to create a market economy. The consistent measures taken in this direction have converted the integration of our country into the family of European nations into a reality. At the present time, Azerbaijan, as a State which is about to join the Council of Europe, is working resolutely to strengthen European values in all spheres of social and State life. In order to complete successfully the radical political and economic reforms which are being carried out in the country and to achieve the lofty goals set forth in the Constitution of our independent State, there is a great need for a healthy opposition. The constructive cooperation of all existing forces in society and their joint efforts aimed at bringing the Republic of Azerbaijan into the group of economically and politically developed States in the world have become essential.

Unfortunately, some radical forces which had formerly, for objective and subjective reasons, gained power for a short time — although some time ago — and which had suffered political failure and were forced to flee in disgrace are still living in the climate of the time when they were in power. These forces, possessed by the idea that "perhaps they will return", from time to time demonstrate that they can in no way rid themselves of their political infantilism and inaction and that they are not capable of waging a political struggle with the authorities within the framework of civilized standards. In order to achieve their sordid political ambitions, they do not hesitate to resort even to unlawful action which could push our society into the abyss of chaos.

These radical political forces, which do not wish to see the positive changes which are taking place in our country and have set themselves in opposition to the will of the people, while attempting to hold an unlawful meeting in the centre of the city of Baku on 29 April 2000, provoked a disturbance, refused to comply with the legitimate demands of law enforcement officials and used force against them,

causing various degrees of physical injury to 36 members of the police force. In order to achieve their sordid political aims, these destructive forces, possessed by a desire to create confusion among the population, once again shed the blood of their brothers, flagrantly violating the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and attempted to shake the social and political stability which prevails in the country. It was only thanks to the skilful and progressive action of the law enforcement organs that these events, which if they had spread could have led to more serious consequences, were localized.

In holding this illegal meeting, the radical wing of the opposition once again demonstrated that its aim is to create civil strife in the country and to undermine the international image of Azerbaijan and prevent it from joining the Council of Europe. However, the wretched leaders of the PNFA-Mussavat tandem and other militant opposition parties under their thumb must know that the time for demagogic statements and mass-meeting psychology in the political struggle has long since passed. The only path in the struggle for power in the Republic of Azerbaijan lies in participation in elections on the basis of democratic laws. At the present time, a new draft bill on elections to the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been placed on the parliamentary agenda and it will be considered in the next few days. Any political force which claims that it has the trust of the people may participate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections on the basis of civilized standards.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan expresses its confidence that the forces which, by provoking disturbances, are attempting to disrupt stability in the country, create civil strife and form a negative opinion of the State of Azerbaijan in the world community will henceforward be stamped out once and for all, that the democratization processes taking place in Azerbaijan will be successfully completed and that our independent State will take its rightful place among the leading States of Europe.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon all morally sound political forces in society to mobilize their forces to prevent the provocative activities of the radical wing of the opposition and not to allow the social and political stability to be disrupted.

Conscious of its responsibility with regard to the consistent implementation in Azerbaijan of the processes of building a democratic State based on the rule of law and the strengthening of the principle of the primacy of law in society, the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan decides:

1. To regard the attempts of the PNFA-Mussavat tandem and their lackeys and protectors to disrupt the social and political stability of our country and create civil strife by provoking disturbances in the capital as an infringement of the statehood of Azerbaijan and as undermining its international authority.

2. To consider the provocative action carried out on 29 April 2000 in the city of Baku by the radical wing of the opposition inadmissible and not in keeping with democratic political methods of struggle, and it strongly condemns such action.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan assures the Azerbaijani people that the State of Azerbaijan is capable of preventing any possible provocative actions in the future and that the parliament of Azerbaijan will make every effort to support the resolute internal and foreign policy being carried out under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the esteemed Heydar Aliyev.

M. Aleskerov
Chairman of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku, 9 May 2000